

## CLAIMS

What is claimed:

1           1.       A method for obtaining a geographic location of an Internet user that accesses  
2 the Internet from a private network through a proxy server, comprising:  
3           receiving a request for information from an Internet user through the proxy server;  
4           determining that the request for information is through the proxy server;  
5           redirecting the request for information to an internal server of the private network, the  
6 internal server determining the geographic location of the Internet user;  
7           receiving the geographic location from the internal server within the private network;  
8 and  
9           using the geographic location of the Internet user in handling the request for  
10 information from the Internet user.

1           2.       The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein redirecting the request for  
2 information to the internal server comprises sending the request for information to the  
3 Internet user's machine, the Internet user's machine directing the request for information to  
4 the internal server.

1           3.       A method for determining a geographic location of an Internet user that  
2 accesses the Internet from a private network through a proxy server, comprising:

3 receiving a request for the geographic location of the Internet user within the private  
4 network, the request originating from an external network outside of the private network;  
5 detecting that the request for the geographic location of the Internet user was  
6 redirected from the external network;  
7 determining the geographic location of the Internet user; and  
8 sending the geographic location to the external network.

1 4. The method as set forth in claim 3, wherein receiving the request for the  
2 geographic location originating from the external network comprises receiving the request  
3 from the Internet user's machine.

1 5. The method as set forth in claim 3, wherein determining the geographic  
2 location comprises determining the geographic location based on the Internet user's internal  
3 address and a geographic location/internal IP address mapping table contained within the  
4 private network.

1 6. The method as set forth in claim 3, wherein determining the geographic  
2 location comprises:  
3 determining an internal address of the Internet user; and  
4 accessing a geographic location/internal IP address mapping table contained within  
5 the private network.

1           7.     The method as set forth in claim 3, wherein sending the geographic location to  
2 the external network comprises:

3           sending the geographic location to the Internet user's machine; and

4           redirecting the Internet user's machine to the external network.

1           8.     A method for obtaining a geographic location of an Internet user that accesses  
2 the Internet from a private network through a proxy server, comprising:

3           receiving a request for the geographic location of the Internet user from a requestor  
4 outside of the private network;

5           determining that the request for the geographic location is from the Internet user  
6 located inside the private network having the proxy server;

7           redirecting the request for the geographic location to an internal server in the private  
8 network, the internal server determining the geographic location of the Internet user;

9           receiving the geographic location from the internal server within the private network;

10          and

11          sending the geographic location to the requestor who is outside the private network.

1           9.     The method as set forth in claim 8, wherein redirecting the request for  
2 information to the internal server comprises sending the request for information to the  
3 Internet user's machine, the Internet user's machine directing the request for information to  
4 the internal server

1           10.    A method for resolving a domain name inquiry to assist in gathering  
2 geographic location of an Internet user, comprising:  
3           receiving the domain name inquiry, the domain name inquiry being issued by the  
4 Internet user;  
5           determining if the inquiry originated from within a private network;  
6           resolving the inquiry by returning a first IP address if the inquiry did not originate  
7 from within the private network, the first IP address being associated with an external server  
8 located outside of the private network; and  
9           resolving the inquiry by returning a second IP address if the inquiry did originate from  
10 within the private network, the second IP address being associated with an internal server  
11 located inside the private network;  
12           wherein the internal server and the external server are for determining the geographic  
13 location of the Internet user and for making this geographic location information available.

1           11.    The method as set forth in claim 10, wherein receiving the inquiry on the  
2 domain name comprises receiving the inquiry at a domain name server.

1           12.    The method as set forth in claim 10, wherein the resolving by returning the  
2 first IP address and the resolving by returning the second IP address are performed by a  
3 domain name server.